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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 21 January 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the annexed statements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia concerning the discrimination against ethnic Georgians and violation of their property rights in occupied Abkhazia and the ratification of the agreements on the promotion and mutual protection of capital investments between the Government of the Russian Federation and the proxy regimes of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ambassador Alexander **Lomaia**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 21 January 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on the ratification of the agreements on the promotion and mutual protection of capital investments between the Government of the Russian Federation and the proxy regimes of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region

On 8 and 23 December 2010, the President of Russia, D. Medvedev, signed federal laws of the Russian Federation on the ratification of the so-called agreements on the promotion and mutual protection of capital investments between the Government of the Russian Federation and the proxy regimes set up by Russia on the occupied territories of Georgia.

It needs to be emphasized that the so-called agreements have been granted a retroactive force and hence, they apply to investments made with respect to the Tskhinvali region from 1 January 1992 and with respect to Abkhazia from 1 January 1994.

International law stipulates that any agreement concluded between an occupant country and proxy regimes created by such country is null and void given that so-called South Ossetia and Abkhazia are not subjects of international law and these territories are universally recognized as integral parts of Georgia.

Based on the texts of the aforesaid agreements and explanatory notes and conclusions attached thereto, Russia in fact recognizes that in defiance of its international commitments and in complete disregard for the sovereignty of Georgia, it has been carrying out illegal economic activity in the so-called conflict zones since the 1990s, establishing relations with the proxy regimes as independent entities.

Hence, as the Georgian side has stated repeatedly, the claims of Russian officials that they used to respect Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity and were only "forced" in August 2008 to recognize the so-called republics of Abkhazia and South Ossetia are just attempts to lead into error the international community and the Russian community itself and legitimize their own virtual new reality.

The aforesaid provides further proof that since the 1990s the Russian Federation has been consistent in its efforts to destroy Georgian statehood, seize and annex its integral parts and carry out a policy of multiple ethnic cleansing, which in 2008 culminated in full-scale military aggression and occupation of Georgia's inalienable territories.

Tbilisi, 13 January 2011

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on the discrimination against ethnic Georgians and violation of their property rights in occupied Abkhazia

Electronic media sources spread reports on the discriminative decision adopted at a regular session of the so-called commission "to secure legality while resolving property rights of Russian citizens in Abkhazia" held in occupied Sukhumi, in December 2010.

By decision of the so-called commission co-chaired by G. Enik, chief of the so-called "president's administration" and S. Grigoriev, so-called "ambassador" of the Russian Federation in Abkhazia, applications of ethnically Georgian citizens of Russia on their property rights will be rejected by the commission. This decision was made public by the Russian Federation's official D. Visherniov, second secretary of the so-called "embassy".

This decision makes it obvious that Russia, acting in defiance of its domestic laws and the norms and principles of international law, employs an ethnically based discriminative approach against its own citizens. Such approach once again indicates that Russia's policy against Georgia and ethnic Georgians contradicts the standards of international law and human rights law and is nothing else but persecution along ethnic lines. Under such circumstances it is little wonder that multiple ethnic cleansing of the Georgian population has been taking place on Russia's occupied territories since the 1990s and the facts of persecution and discrimination involving citizens of Georgia and ethnic Georgians were reported on the Russian territory itself in 2006. Of particular concern is the fact that Russia is insistent in its efforts to establish its fascist policy in the international arena.

The international community unanimously supports the unconditional and dignified return of internally displaced persons from Abkhazia, Georgia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia to the places of their origin and the inviolability of their property in the occupied territories, to which attest a great number of resolutions and decisions adopted in the framework of the United Nations.

Against such background, the activity of the so-called commission in Georgia's occupied territories can be described as an attempt of the two criminal-fascist gangs to divide the plundered property between them.

Tbilisi, 13 January 2011